

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6989

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, XF

SUBJ: ISRAELI VIEWS ON GOI PREPARATIONS FOR
FORD-RABIN MEETING

1. ISRAELI CABINET IS SCHEDULED TO MEET JUNE 8
IN TWO SEPARATE SESSIONS, ITS REGULAR MORNING
MEETING AND SPECIAL EVENING ONE TO PREPARE GUIDE-
LINES FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
FORD. AT THIS POINT, USUALLY WELL-INFORMED ISRAELI
COMMENTATORS AND POLITICIANS ARE THEMSELVES UNCERTAIN
AS TO WHAT WILL TRANSPIRE AT THIS PREPARATORY SESSION.
IN PARTICULAR, THERE ARE CONFLICTING VIEWS AS TO
WHETHER CABINET WILL CONSIDER AUTHORIZING
NEW NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS. DOMINANT VIEW AT PRE-
SENT IS THAT, UNLESS PRESIDENT FORD HAS TRANSMITTED
SOME NEW EGYPTIAN IDEAS TO GOI FOR ITS RESPONSE,
RABIN WILL GO TO WASHINGTON ONLY WITH GENERAL GUIDE-
LINES. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, DAVAR
EDITOR HANNAH ZEMER FOR INSTANCE SAID THAT CABINET
MEETING WILL CONFINE ITSELF ONLY TO GENERALITIES,
RABIN'S PRESS ADVISOR DAN PATTIR HAS TOLD US THAT
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CABINET WILL CONFINE ITSELF TO OUTLINING "LIMITS

OF WHAT IT REGARDS AS NEGOTIABLE." RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER RAPHAEL, HOWEVER, HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT RABIN WILL PRESENT TO PRESIDENT FORD NEW IDEAS, APPROVED BY CABINET, FOR A STAGE-BY-STAGE SETTLEMENT UNDER US MEDIATION (FBIS-TA 0517587 JUNE 75).

2. USUALLY WELL INFORMED MAARIV POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT HARIF WRTIES JUNE 6 THAT A CABINET MEETING RABIN PROBABLY WILL REJECT AGAIN DEMANDS FROM CABINET "MODERATES" FOR FORMULATION OF NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS, UNLESS GOI HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED BY PRESIDENT FORD TO RESPOND TO EGYPTIAN IDEAS. HARIF FURTHER WRITES THAT RABIN, IN CONSULTATIONS THIS WEEK WITH "THINK TANK" MEMBERS (INCLUDING ZEEVI AND SHARON), SAID THAT HE REMAINS OPPOSED TO RETURNING EASTERN PORTION OF GAZA TO EGYPT UNLESS LATTER RENOUNCES OPTION OF RECOURSE TO WAR. (HARIF DOES NOT USE PHRASE "NON-BELLIGERENCY.") RABIN REPORTEDLY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT EGYPT WOULD BE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM SYRIA TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW WAR IF SYRIA'S TERRITORIAL DEMANDS WERE NOT MET; THEREFORE, RABIN REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT RETURN OF GAZA IN THEIR ENTIRETY WITHOUT EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT RENOUNCING WAR OPTION COULD CONSTITUTE REAL DANGER FOR ISRAEL. HARIF ALSO NOTES THAT GOI'S ABSOLUTE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR DURATION OF NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IS THREE YEARS. AT THIS STAGE, HE SAYS, ISRAEL DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER EGYPT WOULD BE WILLING TO AGREE TO THIS STIPULATION. NOTE: AS DEPT IS AWARE HARIF IS WIDELY REGARDED HERE AS HAVING EXTREMELY CLOSE CONTACTS WITH RABIN AS WELL AS OTHER KEY MINISTERS; WE BELIEVE HIS REPORTING IS USUALLY ACCURATE REFLECTION OF TOP LEADERSHIP THINKING.

3. WE ALSO CALL DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO RABIN'S LATEST PUBLIC FORMULATION ON PROSPECTS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT. RABIN TOLD LABOR PARTY'S YOUNG GUARD JUNE 5, (ITEM WIRE SERVICE) THAT ISRAELI POSITION ON ISSUE OF INTERIM AGREEMENT REMAINED POSITIVE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTHOUGH ISRAEL WOULD NOT ACCEPT AN EGYPTIAN DICTATE. GOI WILL REEXAMINE ITS POSITION IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT GOE IS READY TO DEMONSTRATE GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON MAIN POINTS WHICH LED TO SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS: DURATION OF AGREEMENT SHOULD BE FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME, CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS ON THE GROUND HAVE TO BE ASSURED, AND THERE MUST BE ASSURANCE THAT INTERIM AGREEMENT

WILL BE STEP TOWARD A STABLE PEACE. RABIN ALSO
SAID THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THERE WILL NOT BE FURTHER
DEADLOCK IN MIDDLE EAST AND THAT ATMOSPHERE HAS
IMPROVED FOR EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS AND
APPROACHES FOR PROGRESSING TOWARDS PEACE
SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT CENTRAL PURPOSE OF
WASHINGTON TALKS IS TO EXAMINE THESE QUESTIONS,
AND THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO PRESENT PRESIDENT
WITH "SHOPPING LIST".
VELIOTES

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